(b) if so, what are the reasons that the engineers are refusing to attend to these aircraft;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to resolve the issues involved; and

(d) what is the estimated loss suffered by Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) A Statement is attached.

Statement

(a) On an average, two to three different Airbus A300 aircraft have been on routine maintenance for major inspection and repairs at different times during 1991. Some delays in completing the work occurred due to the licensed aircraft engineers not cooperating fully to carry out the tasks in time.

(b) The aircraft engineers were not cooperating fully as their demand for parity in emoluments with Air-India has been referred to the National Industrial Tribunal by the Government for adjudication.

(c) Notwithstanding the reference of the issue to National Industrial Tribunal for adjudication, certain financial issues which are of major concern to Indian Airlines and Aircraft Engineers Association representing the Aircraft Maintenance Engineers, are being bilaterally discussed and resolved between the Indian Airlines' Management and the Association. Presently, the engineers have been extending full cooperation.

(d) Since scheduled requirements were being met by suitable deployment of the available fleet and additional effort put in by the Executive Engineers in the licensed category, there was no calculable financial loss on this account,

Billing System of DESU

31. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up various committees from time to time during the past few years to study the billing system of DESU and the problems being faced by the consumers:

(b) if so, the details of the reports submitted by these committees;

(c) whether Government have examined the reports of these committees indepth;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the details of the fresh measures Government propose to take to simplify the billing system of DESU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDE PENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances had conducted a study on the simplification of procedure for hiring and refund of security deposits by DESU. in their report, it has *inter alia* been suggested to follow a uniform procedure in all the Districts for preparation of meter-sheets; introduction of rotational meter reading; identification of connections where bills have not been issued for more than a year; introduction of spot billing system on trial basis; feasibility of issuing the first bill on actual reading and the next bill on assessment basis on monthly/bi-monthly intervals; dispensing with the system of security deposit for Government accommodation and transfer of security deposits in case of private accommodation etc.

As a result of the implementation of many of the suggestions of the Study Team, and taking other measures to improve and simplify the billing procedure in DESU and gradual stabilisation of the computerised billing system, DESU has been able to considerably bring down the incidence of incorrect and delayed billing.

(e) At present, the consumer billing system of DESU is computerised and is working satisfactorily. DESU has instated computer terminals in its 23 District Offices out of 24 District Offices to facilitate transmission and retrieval of the data relating to the electricity bills to and from the main Computer Centre. This facilitates prompt attendance/redressal of the complaints regarding electricity bills. *The* present computerised billing system is functioning effectively. The position is reviewed from time to time by DESU in the light of the suggestions received from the consumers etc.

Clearance to Kayamkulam and Maugalore Power Projects

32. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will 'he Minister of POWER AND NON-CON-vENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Financial Express' of the 15th August, 1991 regarding the, status of clear-once of two Southern thermal power plants at Kayamkularn and Mangalore;

(b) if so. what are the hurdles which me coming in this way of clearance of these power projects;

(c) whether clearance has not so far been received from the Ministry of En vironment and Forests, if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) by when the projects are likely to receive the final sanction from the Cabi net Committee on Economic Affairs and what is the total expenditure already incur red on the preliminary work conducted at the site in Kerala; and

(e) whether it is a fact the Soviet Union had refused to prepare detailed project reports for these two projects, if so, the details thereof and also reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDE-PENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposals for setting up of 2x210 MW thermal power projects each at Kayamkulam (Kerala) and Man-lialore (Karnataka) require clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests from environmental/forest angle with specific reference to major issues like Fly Ash Utilisation, R&R Plan and Ash Disposal Flan.

(d) The question of issue of final sanc-ions for these two projects arises only after environment/forest clearance and funding etc., are tied up. An expenditure of about Rs. 431 lakhs has been incurred upto July, 1991 in respect of Kayamkulam power project in connection with prelimi-,iiiry work at site.

(e) No. Sir.

Performance of SEBs

33 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENER. GY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the alarming financial problems being faced by SEBs, the Planning Commission has urged State Governments to pay immediate attention to the tariff structure;

(b) whether it is a fact that many SEBs are overstaffed and overall efficiency and productivity has fallen; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps Government propose to take to improve the performance of SEBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The Planning Commission has not issued any specific instructions to the State Governments on the tariff structure of State Electricity Boards. However, the need to rationalise the tariff structure for improving the financial position of the SEBs has been emphasised to the State Govern. ments from time to time.

(b) and (c) The level of man-power obtaining in a number of Boards ap-